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THE NASH PAPYRUS.

A NEW PHOTOGRAPH.

A FULL description of the Nash Papyrus, which is a single mutilated leaf that presents a text of the Decalogue and the *Shema* in a text differing from the Massoretic standard, is given in the JEWISH QUARTERLY REVIEW for April, 1903 (Vol. XV, pp. 392-408). To this description the reader is referred for an estimate of the general character and value of the document, as well as for a complete transcription and translation. The few remarks here set down are made merely to explain the reason for printing the new facsimile.

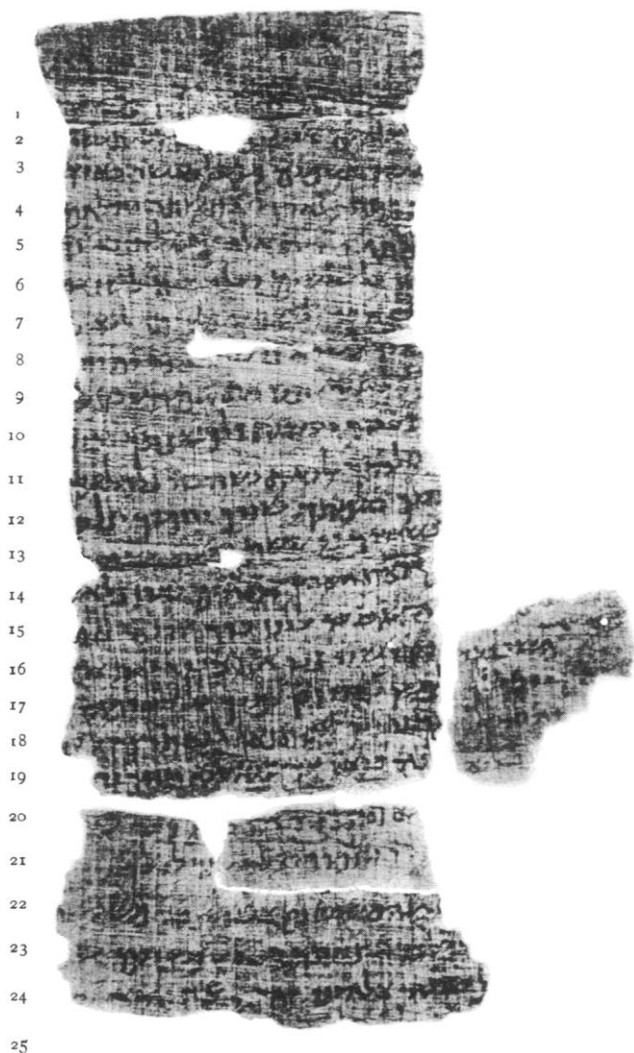
The papyrus itself, now numbered MS. *Or.* 233, was presented to the Cambridge University Library by the then owner, Mr. W. L. Nash, while the article referred to was passing through the press. Mr. Nash and several others had tried to make a legible photograph of it, but all attempts had ended in failure. What appeared facing p. 392 in my article was, as I then explained, a photograph of the *papyrus*, but not of the *handwriting*. The dark yellow of the papyrus and the black ink of the letters had almost the same effect on the photographic plate. Moreover the original is best read with a side light, but the crinkled surface of the papyrus casts shadows when illuminated from the side, and it has been found impossible to press it smooth. The fragments had been gummed on to pieces of cardboard, and to detach the brittle and fragile papyrus from the card is a delicate task which the Library

authorities have not even yet ventured to attempt. Under these circumstances the only way in which it was possible to explain the appearance of the document to those who had not seen it was to make a careful pen-and-ink copy of the writing upon Mr. Nash's photograph of the papyrus.

The reproduction which appeared in illustration of Mr. S. A. Cook's paper in the *Proceedings of the Society of Biblical Archaeology* for November, 1902, the reproduction in the *Jewish Encyclopaedia* (art. DECALOGUE), and finally the reproduction in the JEWISH QUARTERLY REVIEW, of which mention has been made, were all taken from my drawing. But what now appears is taken from an untouched photograph. Dr. F. J. Allen, of St. John's College, Cambridge, succeeded last summer in obtaining negatives in which the writing was visible, and it is a reproduction from his negatives which is now published. The happy result was reached by taking intelligent pains in many little points of difficulty, from the preparation of a special plate to lighting up the fragments only by diffused reflection from both sides, the front light being cut off.

The new facsimile, which is the size of the original, speaks for itself. I would here specially call attention to the א in חנאף (*sic*) in l. 18, and in א[ל] at the beginning of l. 20. The looped ה is seen in ll. 9, 11, 20. ש is written in l. 15 with a ligature, and separate in l. 16. Final ך is prominent in l. 12; the small כ appears in עלבן (l. 15), and the great כ in כבר (l. 16) just below it. In front of this great כ in l. 16 are the two hooked strokes, which Mr. Cook and I take to be a suffix ן, and not ה. The one place where we differ is in l. 20, which I leave to the readers of the JEWISH QUARTERLY REVIEW to make out for themselves. In any case, it will now be possible for the palaeographer to study, from an unbiased witness, the general appearance of the handwriting and the forms of the single letters in this most interesting and ancient relic of Jewish religion.

F. C. BURKITT.



HEBREW PAPYRUS OF THE DECALOGUE

(Cambridge University Library, MS. Or. 233)

Reproduction of a photograph taken directly from the original by F. J. Allen, M.D.

- 1 [. . . אנכי י]הוה אלהיך אשר [הוצא]תיך מארץ מ[צרים]
- 2 [לוא יהיה ל]ך אלהים אחרים [על פ]ני לוא תעשה [לך פסל]
- 3 [וכל תמונה] אשר בשמים ממעל ואשר בארץ [מתחת]
- 4 [ואשר במי]ם מתחת לארץ לוא תשתחוה להם [ולוא]
- 5 [תעבדם כי] אנכי יהוה אלהיך אל קנוא פק[ר עון]
- 6 [אבות על בני]ם על שלשים ועל רבעים לשנאי [ועשה]
- 7 [חסד לאלפים] לאהבי ולשמרי מצותי לוא ח[ש]א את
- 8 [שם יהוה א]להיך לשוא כי לוא ינקה יהוה [את אשר]
- 9 [ישא את ש]מה לשוא זכור את יום השבת [לקרשו]
- 10 [ששת ימי]ם תעבוד ועשית כל מלאכתך וביום [השביעי]
- 11 [שבת ליהוה] אלהיך לוא תעשה בה כל מלאכה [אתה]
- 12 [ובנך ובתך] עבדך ואמתך שורך וחמרך וכל ב[המתך]
- 13 [וגרך אשר] בשעריך כי ששת ימים עשה י[הוה]
- 14 [את השמי]ם ואת הארץ את הים ואת כל א[שר במ]
- 15 [וינח ביום] השביעי עלכן ברכ יהוה את [יום]
- 16 השביעי ויקדשו כבר את אביך ואת אמ[ך למען]
- 17 ייטב לך ולמען יאריכון ימך על הארמה [אשר]
- 18 יהוה אלהיך נתן לך לוא תנאף לוא תרצח לון[א]
- 19 [תגנב לוא ח]נה ברעך עד שוא לוא תחמוד [את]
- 20 [אשת רעך ל]וא תת[א]וה את ב[ית] רעך שו[הו ועבדו]
- 21 [ואמתו וש]ורו וחמרו וכל אשר לרעך [Blank]
- 22 [ואלה החק]ים והמשפטים אשר צוה משה את [בני]
- 23 [ישראל] במדבר בצאתם מארץ מצרים שם[ע]
- 24 [ישראל] ל יהוה אלהינו יהוה אחד הוא וא[הבת]
- 25 [את יהוה א]ל[היך בב]ל ל[בבך]